

Ye are not as yet
come into the rest and the inheritance
which the Lord your God giveth you.

Deuteronomy 12:9

FOR, behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth: and the former
shall not be remembered, nor come into
mind.

Esaias 65:17

WE, according to His promise,
look for new heavens and a new
earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

2 Peter 3:13

AND I saw a new heaven and a new
earth: for the first heaven and the
first earth were passed away; and there
was no more sea. And He that sat upon
the throne said, Behold, I make all
things new.

Revelation 21:1, 5

GOD HAS DONE all things for our benefit. We are guarded
and taught by the angels; we are tempted by the demons
so that we may be humbled and have recourse to God,
thus being saved from self-elation and delivered from negligence
. . . Thus God in His unutterable goodness has arranged all things
in a marvellous way for us; and if you want to understand this
and to be as you should, you must struggle to acquire the virtues,
to be able to accept with gratitude everything that comes, whether
it is good or whether it appears to be bad, and to remain undis-
turbed in all things.

St Peter of Damascus, *Philokalia*, Faber & Faber,
Vol. III, pp. 173–74

AS THE SAINTS who were familiarized with many suffer-
ings, and who gave evidence of their constancy unto
death, were thereby rendered worthy of crowns of
glory; and as the severer were their labours, the greater is the
glory and the confidence which they now enjoy with God; so like-
wise, souls that are consigned to various afflictions, whether those
afflictions appear to come from men, or arise from sinful and fool-
ish thoughts, or are caused by bodily diseases, if they endure unto
the end, will obtain the same crowns and the same confidence with
the Martyrs. For, as these patiently endured the martyrdom which
they suffered from men, so those souls, which shall have patiently
sustained the martyrdom inflicted on them by the spirits of wick-
edness working within them, will hereafter receive glory from
God according to the measure of the afflictions which they shall
have endured from the adversary; and not hereafter only, but even
here, being now accounted worthy to receive the consolation of
the Good Spirit.

St Macarius the Great,
Institutes of Christian Perfection, tr. Granville Penn, London, 1816,
Book 7, ch. XV, pp. 197–98

PEARLS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

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